

## Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 IO-10 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-04 /069 W

----- 027779

R 291213Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 527

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR XF

SUBJECT: ABU IYAD'S PRESS CONFERENCE

1. AFTER THREE CANCELLATIONS IN TWO DAYS, BLACK SEPTEMBER LEADER ABU IYAD FINALLY HELD HIS PRESS CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 27 AT VOICE OF PALESTINE OFFICE IN CAIRO ON RECENT HIJACKING INCIDENT. HE SPOKE IN ARABIC, WITH AN ENGLISH TRANSLATOR WHO, WE UNDERSTAND, WAS NOT ALWAYS ACCURATE. WE ASSUME FBIS WILL CARRY REPORTS DRAWN FROM CAIRO RADIO AND PALESTINIAN STATIONS. SIGNIFICANT POINTS FOLLOW:

A. WHO WAS BEHIND INCIDENT? HIJACKERS WERE ALL UNDER 18 YEARS OLD SO RESPONSIBILITY FOR INCIDENT RESTS WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THOSE WHO PUT THEM UP TO IT. ABU IYAD SPECIFICALLY DENIED

LIBYA WAS INVOLVED. ASKED ABOUT IRAQ, ABU IYAD DID NOT DIRECTLY ACCUSE GOI OF COMPLICITY, BUT SAID MERELY THAT PLO WILL BE STUDYING RESULTS OF ITS INVESTIGATIONS. HE SAID THAT FOUR HIJACKERS WILL SOON DECLARE WHO HELPED THEM AND WHERE THEY WANTED TAKE THE PLACE.

B. RABAT ASSASSINATION. THERE HAD BEEN NO INTENTION TO KILL SADAT, BUT ONLY TO ELIMINATE THOSE "WHO MASSACRE PALESTINIANS". ABU IYAD STOPPED SHORT OF THREATENING AGAIN TO KILL HUSSAIN, BUT SAID HE WAS PROUD OF WHAT HE HAD SAID RECENTLY IN BEIRUT (ABOUT ELIMINATING HUSSAIN), AND LEFT NO ONE IN AUDIENCE IN DOUBT AS TO HIS DISGUST OVER HASHEMITE REGIME. HUSSAIN MUST FULFILL PROMISES HE MADE IN RABAT, "INCLUDING CAIRO AND AMMAN AGREEMENT CONCLUDED WITH PLO".

C. EGYPT HOLDS PALESTINIAN PRISONERS "AR REQUEST" OF PLO.

2. COMMENT: ABU IYAD'S DIATRIBE AGAINST HUSSAIN WAS NOT CONSONANT WITH PREDICTIONS OF MODERATION MADE TO US ABOUT PRESS CONFERENCE BY MFA OFFICIAL (CAIRO 9624). SEVERAL CANCELLATIONS OF PRESS CONFERENCE ALSO SUGGEST THAT GOE-PLO MEETING OF MINDS ON LINE ABU IYAD SHOLD TAKE WAS LESS THAN COMPLETE.  
EILTS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ASSASSINATION, PRESS CONFERENCES, TERRORISTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 NOV 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974CAIRO09673  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740346-0873  
**From:** CAIRO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14-Aug-2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <12 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ABU IYAD'S PRESS CONFERENCE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, XF, (IYAD, ABU), (HUSSEIN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005